Volume 6, Edition 4

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

April 2002

VOMARC HAMFEST IS HERE SATURDAY, APRIL 27!

FINAL HAMFEST PLANNING WILL BE AT THE APRIL MEETING!

The April VOMARC meeting will be this Wednesday, April 17, starting at 7:30 p.m. at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center.

Final planning for the annual VOMARC hamfest will be discussed and any unfilled job assignments will be taken care of.

Many of the slots are already filled, but there is always a need for first and second shift help for the breakfast. The breakfast crew will be doing everything from cracking eggs and flipping pancakes to serving the vendors at their tables. The breakfast is the single biggest money-maker for the club, so encourage your friends and family to join us for eggs, sausages, coffee and juice, and all the pancakes they can hold. We have been charging only five dollars for adults and $3.50 for kids under 12. Breakfast will be served from 8 to 10 a.m. during the hamfest.

Mike Miller, WB6TMH, will be holding a hidden transmitter hunt during the morning. He will help anyone interested in this aspect of amateur radio to get a feel for what has become an increasingly popular activity. Hidden transmitter hunts now take place all over the world, with regular competitions held internationally. DF'ing, or direction finding, is used for finding downed airplanes, illegally transmitting radio stations and noise sources QRM'ing the ham bands.

VOMARC's own operating station will consist of a QRP, or low power, ham station, PSK-31, or digital HF station, and possibly packet or APRS stations run by Jim Hill, K6UUW and Ken McTaggart, N6KN. Jim and Ken again invite anyone interested to stop by to observe and participate the operation.

All local hams with equipment to sell are encouraged to set up a swap table for $10 and clear out some space in the shack for more new gear. The club will have a table set up for VOMARC members working on the event to sell gear. Kermit Parker, W6JFN, will staff the swap table. He can either drive a hard bargain to get top dollar for member's gear, or make sure SOMEONE goes away with a bargain if the gear needs to find a good home somewhere other than the original owner's garage.

It will be a wonderful day, yet again, and everyone should have a good time meeting old friends and making new ones.

Be sure to come down to the Sonoma Vets' Building Saturday, April 27, and be sure to bring the family for breakfast.

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

As sure as the days and the weeds get longer, likewise, it's

time for Hamfest. So far we have been working on getting the word out. If you can help with this task, let us know. We need someone to put out flyers around the community. Make sure to attend the next meeting so that the final plans can be made and everyone knows what to do. I finally got around to getting my Kenwood 430s mobile. It seems to work OK and so far, I have made one QSO. Thanks to the electrical engineering gods for inventing the noise blanker circuit. I will miss the next meeting. I will be helping out with this year's Baker to Vegas event. If you would like to know more about this event, check http://baker-to-vegas.org/staffing.html. The team that I will work with will support the Fremont Police Dept and will install 4 remote, linked repeaters along the race course that will handle voice and data. The tracker vehicles will all have APRS. Its quite an operation and I will fill you all in at the May meeting. Our antenna trailer is built and thanks to Frank, AB6SG, we will have a tower to mount on it. Thanks to Mike, WB6 TMH, for getting the solar panel inverter working. Our plan is to have a solar powered station for field day. MORE POINTS! Ken, N6KM, and I visited Frank and said our farewells. He was happy to see us and receive his certificates of appreciation. The Ducie Island dxpedition is now history and I was lucky to make contact. The ARRL is now accepting SSB contact with P5/4L4FN (North Korea) for DXCC credit. So far, I haven't heard him. This is not a dxpedition. Mr. Giorgadze is employed by the United Nations World Food Program and can only get on the air on his off hours. Supposedly, he can be found on 21.225 MHz. QSL via KK5DO.Looking forward to a fun-filled hamfest.73, Jim, K6UUW

LICENSE CLASS NEARLY DONE!

This spring’s license class is coming to an end with good participation by instructors and students alike.

The class started with twelve students and still has most of them sticking with the program. Almost half the class has an interest in sailing, which means that they will be going on to get their General class license to be able to utilize HF for the marine band nets during their cruises.

There are also three licensed hams who are working to upgrade to Extra class. Several of our VOMARC members have been putting in extra duty to tutor those Extra candidates to prepare them for the VE session held during the hamfest.

So far Mike Miller, WB6TMH, Jim Hill, K6UUW, Ken McTaggart, N6KM, Ed Jacobson, W1EJ, and Darrel Jones, WD6BOR, have taken a turn teaching to prepare the class for their written Technician exam. Steve Todd, K2IYQ, has been giving the class their introduction to Morse code so some of the students might

just be able to walk out of their first test session with a General class CSCE.

We are all looking forward to having some new hams and new VOMARC members very soon.

There are a few Technician, General and Extra class study guides left from the class. The Technician and Extra books are $19 each and the General is $15. The Extra question pool changes and increases in size as of July 1, 2002, so now is the time to upgrade. Call 996-4494 for the books.

NPRM 040102

Notice of Proposed Rule Making

Refer to file AP-F001

SUMMARY:

PROPOSAL TO RECIND 5 WPM CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL LICENSE CLASSES, AND TO REPLACE CURRENT MORSE EXAM WITH GSA TYPING TEST:

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS, DIGITAL MODES HAVE REPLACED CW, AND WHEREAS, KEYBOARDING IS THE EASIEST WAY TO ENCODE DIGITAL DATA,

PROPOSAL:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALL APPLICANTS FOR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSES MUST PASS THE EQUIVALENT CIVIL SERVICE TYPING TEST (USING PLAIN LANGUAGE AMATEUR QSO TEXT) FOR THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:

GENERAL CLASS:

THE APPLICANT MUST DEMONSTRATE THE ABILITY TO TYPE AT 35 WORDS PER MINUTE, WITH NO MISTAKES FOR A PERIOD OF ONE MINUTE DURING A 5-MINUTE TEST TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION USING FORM 73-A.

EXTRA CLASS:

THE APPLICANT MUST DEMONSTRATE THE ABILITY TO TYPE AT 60 WORDS PER MINUTE, WITH NO MISTAKES FOR A PERIOD OF ONE MINUTE DURING A 5-MINUTE TEST TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION USING FOR 73-A.

TECHNICIAN:

ALL NO-CODE TECHNICIAN CLASS LICENSEES ARE EXEMPTED FROM TYPING PROFICIENCY EXAMS, BUT MUST DEMONSTRATE AN ABILITY TO COLOR USING THE CRAYOLA ™ PRIMARY 8-COLOR SET. THE DECISION OF THE EXAMINER IS FINAL.

NOTE: For higher class applicants, the use of spell checking programs is not allowed. For Technician applicants, bio-degradable crayons are required.

COMMENT PERIOD:

The comment period commences immediately, and is open for the period of 365-days, ending 1 April 2003.

QRP Fixed Attenuators, Manhattan Style

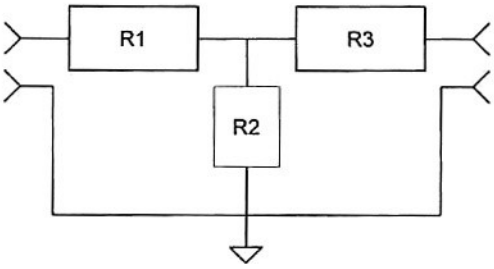
by Mike Schettler WA6MER
6244 Aura Ave.
Tarzana, CA 91335

Ever need a fixed attenuator for reducing the output of a QRP transmitter, or perhaps to check your receiver sensitivity? It's getting difficult to find a source of non-inductive power resistors. Radio Shack sells inexpensive 1 Watt metal-oxide resistors at 2 for 49 cents. However, R/S only stocks 10, 100, and 1 K ohm values. A look at the ARRL Handbook attenuator table was intriguing. The calculated values for a 4 dB, an 8 dB, and a 14 dB T -pad were very close to those you can make from the R/S parts, using simple series-parallel combinations. I built up an 8 dB T -attenuator using two of the 10 ohm resistors for each series element, and two of the 100 ohm resistors in parallel for the shunt element. This yields 20 ohms for each series element, and 50 ohms for the shunt element. A little math shows the impedance looking into this pad is about 49.2 ohms. Plenty close enough! The most power dissipated by any resistor (assuming a 4.9 Watt input) is about 1 Watt.

I built one Manhattan style on a small piece of copper-clad board and checked it out using an MFJ SWR analyzer. SWR is less than 1.1: 1 up to about 11 MHz. It rises to about 1.2: 1 at 20 MHz, and 1.25: 1 at 30 MHz. Keep those resistor leads short! I measured attenuation at 7.8 dB up to about 12 MHz, and 7.5 dB at 30 MHz. Enclose the attenuator in more copper-clad board or a small housing of your choice.

So what do you get for $1.50 worth of R/S resistors? (OK, plus connectors). A 7.5 dB attenuator capable of handling 4.9 Watts, and good up thru HF. It will reduce a transmitter output from 4.9W to 870 mW. Add a second one for another 7.5 dB reduction, you're down to 155 mW. Much safer for feeding into a piece of test equipment or trying QRPp. Building a 3.6 dB T -attenuator takes only two of the 10 ohm resistors and a single 100 ohm. It should handle 3.4 Watts input. See the table below for the details.

Atten.	R1 Series	R2 Shunt	R3 Series	Max Input
3.6 dB	(1) 10 ohm	(1) 100 ohm	(1) 10 ohm	3.4 Watts
7.5 dB	(2) 10 ohm in series	(2) 100 ohm in parallel	(2) 10 ohm in series	4.9 Watts
14dB	(3) 100 ohm in parallel	(2) 10 ohm in series	(3) 100 ohm in parallel	4.3 Watts



QRPp Fall 2001

VOMARC MINUTES, MARCH 20, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM. There were 16 in attendance. Two new members were introduced; Ron Franklin, KG6GLO, and Bret Foster, KG6GGT. Welcome. The minutes of the February meeting stand approved as published in the newsletter.

Reports:

Treasurers report: VOMARC has $1420.66 in the bank. The club will get a refund of $200 for the deposit on the Vets building for the Ham Fest. Ken McTaggart gave the ACS report. Two members are moving out of the area. They are Frank Masten, AB6SG (& wife Brownie), and Gerhard Straub, K6XH (Barbara, KB5EGT). Ken presented Gerhard with a certificate of merit for everything he has done for ACS & VOMARC. Many of the services he performs in keeping the radio gear working for the club are behind the scenes. A certificate of appreciation will be given to Frank at a later time as he was not at the meeting. The new ACS net time following the VOMARC net on Wednesday evenings (except club meeting nights) seems to be working and will continue.

Old Business:

The club voted to donate some money to the ARRL Save the Spectrum fund at the last meeting. This has not been done yet but will be done shortly. The net control for April is Jan Harvey, K9OOU, who was not at the meeting tonight. Net controls were assigned for the following months: August, Darrel Jones WD6BOR; September, Jan Bush, KC6SSI; November, Mike Miller, WB6TMH; December, Steve Todd, K2IYQ. A net control person is still needed for the month of July. Updating the club website was discussed. The calendar, officers, and the ACS link still need updated. Jan Harvey will be contacted regarding facilitating this project. The website address is VOMARC.COM or VOMARC.ORG--both will work. The ham class has 13 students registered. Three are working to upgrade to Extra Class. One is doing independent studies for General Class, and 9 are working for Technician class. Code instruction will begin shortly. Anyone is invited to sit in on the class for review or practice. Some of the club members went to the schools to try to get teachers interested in the class with the aim of helping them interest their students. If interest is shown, an independent studies class may be given for them during the summer. There are grants available to teachers for materials and equipment for their use in teaching students.

An antenna party is still needed to take down Frank Masten's antenna.

NEW BUSINESS:
Our club is affiliated with ARRL and is a Special Services Club. In order to be a Special Services Club, various criteria must be met. These include public service, teaching classes, emergency services, etc. There are not that many clubs designated as special services clubs. Our designation as such is a source of pride to our members.
Every year the club holds a Hamfest. This event evolved over the years to accommodate our members being able to swap equipment and experiences with other hams in our local area rather than traveling to other areas. The Hamfest has also evolved into the club's major fundraiser for the year. This year it will be held April 27 from 7AM to noon at the Veteran's Memorial Building in Sonoma. Admittance to the Ham Fest is free. There is a pancake breakfast that is $5. There will be the usual swap meet. A VE session will be coordinated by Randy, AA6GV. There will be ULS registration coordinated by Steve, K2IYQ, where anyone not registered with the FCC can register via high speed internet. The equipment will be loaned to the club by VOM.COM. There will a QRP station coordinated by Ken, N6KM; a foxhunt coordinated by Mike, WB6TMH; and a station set up to talk to Oscar 40 coordinated by Steve, K2IYQ. Ed Jacobson, AB6QL, will coordinate the breakfast. There are 4 people needed for set up; 4 or more needed for take down; 6 people needed for each of two shifts for breakfast; and someone to help with the greeters table and to sell tickets to the breakfast. Registration for the vendors will be handled by Joan, W6WXU. Talk-in will be by Ed, KA6OFR. Kermit, W6JFN, will coordinate the club swap table. Every year the club has a swap table where people donate equipment to be sold with proceeds going to the club. Sometimes the club will sell equipment for the family of a silent key with the proceeds going to the family. VOMARC gets to use the Vets building free of charge since we are a public service club and furnish emergency communications for the City of Sonoma. Since we have it all day and our event usually lasts half a day, we will invite other non-profit organizations to join us this time. We hope this will be beneficial for other clubs and to help expose more people to our club and our hobby. This is a great P/R opportunity so let's make every effort to advertise the Ham Fest and help expose the event and our hobby to the community. President, Jim Hill K6UUW, presented Gerhard Straub with a plaque in appreciation of his support of and help with the club. We all wish Gerhart and Barbara well in their new location. Ed Wargin, W6AZQ, is a silent key. The club has his equipment for sale. It was displayed at the meeting.

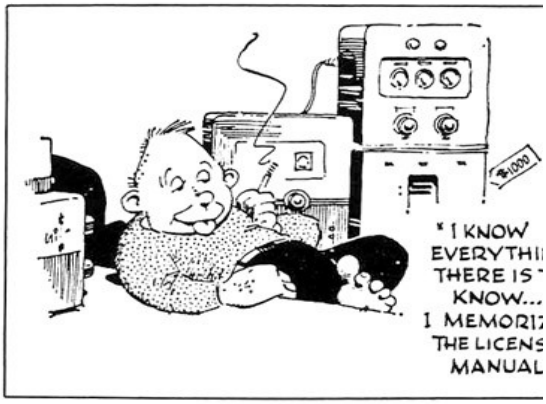
The ARRL San Francisco Section manager, Len Quinn, WA6KLK, was in attendance tonight. He said Lou Saylor, former club member now in Eureka, says hello to everyone. Then he talked about the events and activities of amateur radio in northern California. MCOM 2002 will be held in Palo Verde April 21 & 26. There is still availability. The SF section convention is in Ferndale the last weekend in June. This year Rosalie White is tentatively scheduled as the speaker (subject to her busy schedule). SCRA in Santa Rosa is building a communications van as is the Marin County club. It was suggested that we utilize their van if necessary since our club no longer has a com van. The west Marin Radio club, which works mostly on simplex, 147.42, will hold their VE test April 6 at the Point Reyes Fire Station. Most clubs in northern California average 60 members. The largest meeting has 127 members and the smallest has 9 members. The average attendance at meetings is 25. The Field Day date was discussed. There is some question as to whether it is the fourth weekend in June or the last full weekend in June. This year there are five full weekends in June. Field day may conflict with the SF section convention if it is the last weekend in June rather than the fourth weekend. If that is the case, Len will be in Ferndale. If not, he will let us know whether he will be in Marin with KPH or at his home. As an aside, KPH got its name because it originally started in 1906 in the Palace Hotel. Our field day will be held in Maxwell Park this year rather than Camp Via so that we can get more exposure to the public. Len suggested that we put up a 10 meter dipole and let the public actually make calls with a scripted cheat sheet. He cited instances of this being a great way to get kids interested. He reiterated that grants are available from ARRL for material for teachers to use to form school ham clubs and teach classes. He told of a 6th grade class back east that has a ham club with several 11 year olds having their licenses. Because of this a class of 6th graders on the west coast formed a club and now the two classes talk to each other regularly. He discussed items to use for emergency gear including slow scan TV. This is a great advantage in emergencies to be able to present emergency agencies with immediate pictures of what is happening at an emergency site. He said this is used in Southern Oregon and in Northern California. Len suggested fast scan TV, 2 meter & 440 meters be considered, with 220 meters being more secure, as well as HF and the use of NVIS antennas (near vertical incidence skywave). He said that if anyone has a marine band radio, it would be a good item for their emergency bag as well as aviation, GMRS and the FRS (family radio service). He said these are good ways to tie together the command centers.

He discussed not letting politics get in the way in an actual emergency, but working together with both ARES and ACS and just doing what is necessary to get the job done. He commended Ken, N6KM, for the good work he does as ACS coordinator. He mentioned that the national museum of ships will be open in July. Also, he said if we could find a lighthouse operator to work with us, lighthouse day is fun too. Len reminded us that ARRL has on-line classes for emergency personnel and suggested that everyone take at least step 1 and 2.

Other new business:
Several years ago, the club donated ARRL packs to the library, the high school and Altimira. These cost $200 per pack. We have been asked to consider putting new ones in the library and some of the schools. Darrel, WD6BOR, mentioned that work is proceeding on the club trailer. It is hoped to see it completed by the time of the Hamfest so it can be used for our antennas.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.
The drawing was held. John Bush was the winner of the $. There was also a repeater directory and an antenna book donated by Len Quinn, WA6KLK, raffled off this time. The program for the evening was a display of QSL cards. It was very interesting to see the many varied designs and countries these cards represented. They ranged from 1934 to the present time.

Submitted by Joan Brady, W6WXU



November, 1964

From "The Gil Cartoon Book", ARRL

The nice thing about the VOMARC license classes is that it isn't over in a weekend.

Students benefit from having experienced amateur radio operators who present the background material necessary for better understanding of all aspects of amateur radio.

There is a certain cachet to having been a VOMARC student, and especially to being a member of the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club. Only those licensed hams, members of ham families and extraordinary individuals interested in amateur radio and in possession of ten dollars can become a member of VOMARC.

For further information on becoming a member of this lofty, exclusive organization, contact the Membership Chairman, Steve Todd, K2IYQ, by filling out the membership application on page 8 of this newsletter, and sending it with that ten dollars in your possession to:

Valley of the Moon ARC
18958 Carillo Court
Sonoma, CA 95476-5570

Remember, VOMARC members are smoother and milder, and they leave no ugly stains (usually).

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 6 EDITION 1

A publication of the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS
Jim Hill, K6UUW – President
Harley Hogg, K6PIG – Vice Pres.
Joan Brady, W6WXU – Secretary
Steve Todd, K2IYQ – Treasurer
Gerhard Straub, K6XH – Radio Officer
Ken McTaggert, N6KM – Club Trustee
Steve Todd, K2IYQ – Membership Chair
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month in McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, 15000 Arnold Drive, Eldridge. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as “SNV1EC”. “SNVGW” can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is “SNVND”.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Denny’s Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

WD6BOR@VOM.COM or
K6UUW@VOM.COM or
K2IYQ@VOM.COM

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

Valley of the Moon ARC
18958 Carillo Court
Sonoma, CA 95476

REMEMBER! THE APRIL VOMARC MEETING IS THIS WEDNESDAY THE 17TH AT 7:30 P.M. AT MC DOUGAL HALL, AT THE SDC! CU THERE!

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2002 Membership Dues: $10/year individual; $5/year family member.
ARRL Membership Dues: $39/year; Over 65, $34/year with proof of age; Family, No QST $8/year.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name:_____CALL:_____EMAIL:_____

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VOMARC:$_____ARRL:$_____TOTAL:$_____

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC –** 18958 Carillo Court, Sonoma, CA 95476-5570